



## **Media Release**

Lucerne, 25 March 2020

### **Impact of the pandemic on the Winter Universiade 2021**

*The spread of the coronavirus is prompting the cancellation of many sporting events. This also applies to several test events for the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade. According to current estimates, the Winter Universiade 2021 will be able to take place on 21 to 31 January 2021 as planned. The health of all participants is paramount, and the situation is constantly being reassessed.*

In these days and weeks, combating the spread of the coronavirus is the top priority. For this reason, no sports events take place until further notice. This also affects several test events for the Winter Universiade: In addition to the FIS super G races on the Stoos, the cancelled events include the second part of the Swiss Cross-Country Skiing Championships in Andermatt-Realp, a curling tournament at the Sporting Park in Engelberg, an ice hockey test game at the Bossard Arena in Zug as well as the FIS Freeski World Cup Corvatsch, which would have involved the local organising committee of Engelberg.

### **Health is our number one priority**

The full effect and duration of the pandemic can't yet be gauged. According to current estimates, the Winter Universiade 2021 will be able to take place on 21 to 31 January 2021 as planned. The Management Board and the Board of Directors, chaired by Lucerne Health and Social Affairs Director Guido Graf, have set up a project group led by Director Government Relations and Risk Management Beat Hensler to plan various scenarios in case the current assessment changes. "Given the current situation, it is important that we evaluate all the options and discuss them openly", says Organising Committee President Guido Graf. "The health of everyone involved is paramount," he stresses. The development of the pandemic is being monitored in close cooperation with the authorities and the national and international university sports federation. The effects on the implementation of the Winter Universiade will also be jointly assessed.

### **The Winter Universiade**

The Winter Universiade is the largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games. In 2021 the 30th occasion of this unique event will take place in Central Switzerland and Lenzerheide. The organisation is a joint project of the six cantons of Central Switzerland Lucerne, Uri,



Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Zug, and the City of Lucerne. The programme from the 21st to the 31st January 2021 comprises ten sporting disciplines, to be contested at seven event venues. Students aged between 17 and 25 from more than 540 universities in 50 countries are expected to attend. A total of over 2500 individuals will take part.

Images and further information about the Winter Universiade Lucerne-Central Switzerland 2021 may be found here:

[www.winteruniversiade2021.ch](http://www.winteruniversiade2021.ch)

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